

March 3, 2006

Mr. John F. Carter
Regional Director
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
25 Jessie Street at Ecker Square, Suite 2300
San Francisco, CA 95105

Re: Comments Regarding FDIC Application #20051977; Wal-Mart Application for Insurance and Industrial Bank Charter

Dear Mr. Carter:

I am writing to oppose the application of Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., for Federal deposit insurance coverage for an ILC charter in Utah. I am a community banker and believe strongly that allowing Wal-Mart to own a bank charter will undermine years of careful planning and the clear congressional mandate that banking and commerce be kept separate.

I am aware that Wal-Mart has stated that it intends to operate a limited ILC charter in Utah. Do you believe that? A company as focused on growth as Wal-Mart, in my opinion, is unlikely to go to this amount of effort for a limited operation.

The FDIC would be ill-advised to set this nation on a course that could result in the demise of the community banking industry as we know it today. Congress has reaffirmed our nation's long standing policy against the mixing of banking and commerce, and with good reason. Mixing banking and commerce would create serious conflicts of interest and distort credit decisions. The impartial allocation of credit is the linchpin of our financial system and must be preserved. Would a Wal-Mart Bank offer credit at reasonable terms to its competitors? Would Wal-Mart require its suppliers to bank at the Wal-Mart bank?

Even more importantly, the largest company in the world owning a bank would produce a dangerous concentration of economic power and resources that would pose severe systemic risks to our economy. Think what would have happened if Enron owned a bank? Or Worldcom? It could have exposed the FDIC fund to enormous liability and pulled down our entire financial system. Our nation cannot afford to take that risk to save Wal-Mart a couple of pennies on each credit and debit card transaction.

For the sake of the community banks of our nation and the customers and communities we serve, please do not allow Wal-Mart to get into the banking business. Make a statement for fair competition and consumer choice by denying Wal-Mart's application for deposit insurance.

Sincerely,

Mr. Ashley Burt
President, The Gunnison Bank and Trust Co.
P. O. Box 119
232 W. Tomichi Ave.
Gunnison, CO 81230
(970) 641-0320